Effect of import of cheap palm oil

†3333. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cheap palm oil imported from abroad, has broken the back of oilseed producing farmers;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the light of WTO agreement, import duty on palm oil could be imposed upto 300 per cent whereas on the contrary, because of import duty rate howering between 80 per cent and 90 per cent here, palm oil imported from several countries including Malaysia and Indonesia has ruined the oilseed production in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to(c) The gap between domestic demand production is met by imports. The import duty of Palm oil was bound at 300% through negotiations under W.T.O. However the effective rate of duty is determined keeping in view the interests of domestic producers and consumers.

Steps to stop import of harmful fruit drinks

3334. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the products especially branded fruit drinks not having any fruit content other than synthetic mixture of toxic items, are being imported and sold in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to control such imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) In terms of Foreign Trade Policy

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

fruit drinks are freely importable. However, these imports are subject to the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and these products will have to comply with the quality and packaging requirements as laid down in the Act. In some cases of import of fruit drinks, the imported goods failed the mandatory laboratory test before clearance as these were not conforming to PFA standards. However test results did not specify whether the imported drinks contain toxic items or not.

(b) Details of consignment:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	No. of consignment	Value
2004-05 2005-06	09	17.30
(as on 3.1.2006)	01	00.10

(c) Compliance with the PFAAct is ensured before allowing customs clearance of the consignment.

MoUs between India and Saudi Arabia

3335. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether six MoUs have recently been signed between the Indian and Saudi Arabian Public and Private Sector companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which such MoUs are likely to foster growth in both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The list of MoUs signed during the visit of King of Saudi Arabia in January 2006 is given in the enclosed Statement (See below). These MoUs are likely to help in strengthening cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia.